THE HOWLING™
REVENGE OF THE WEREWOLF QUEEN
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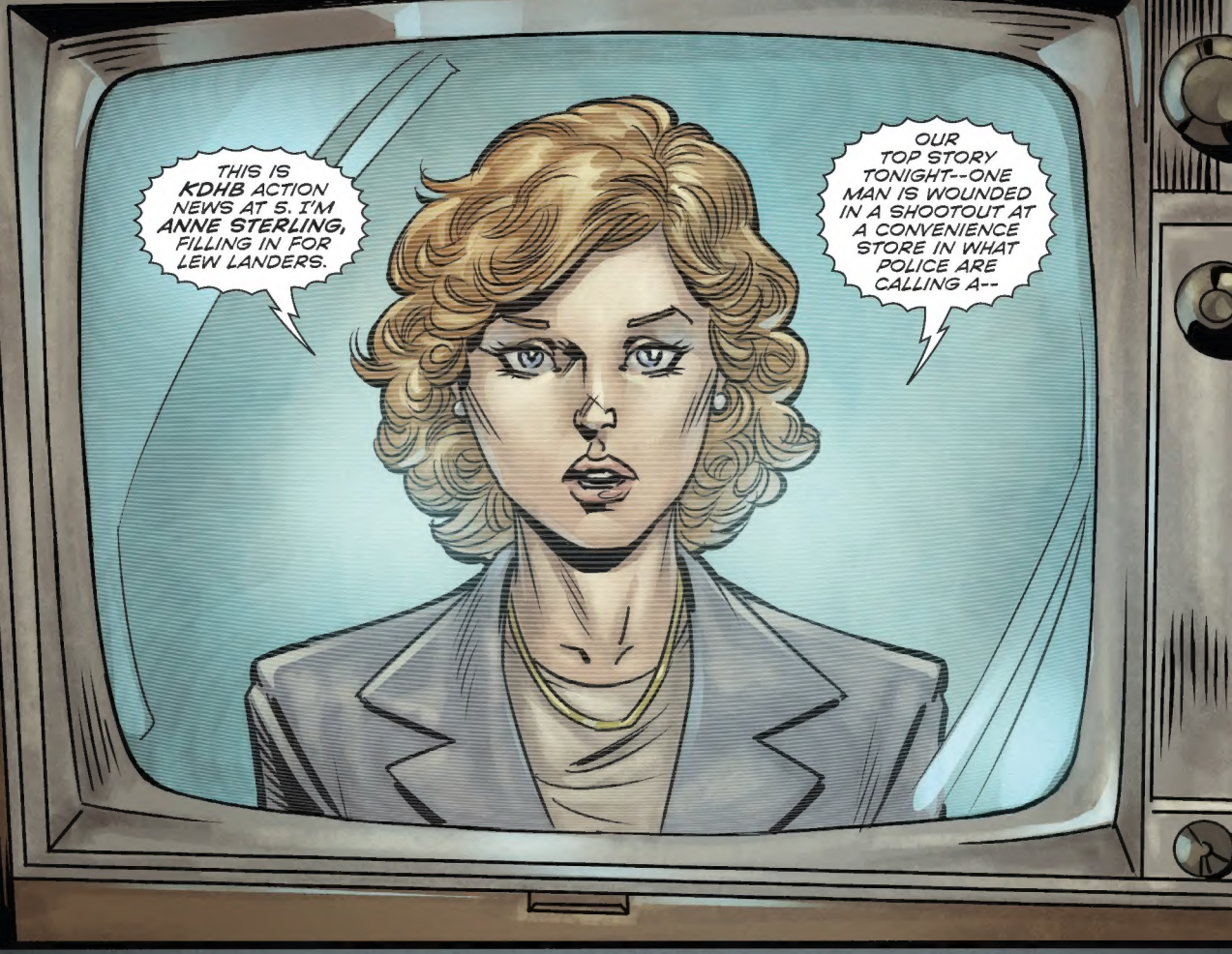
CLC

CHAPTER 1

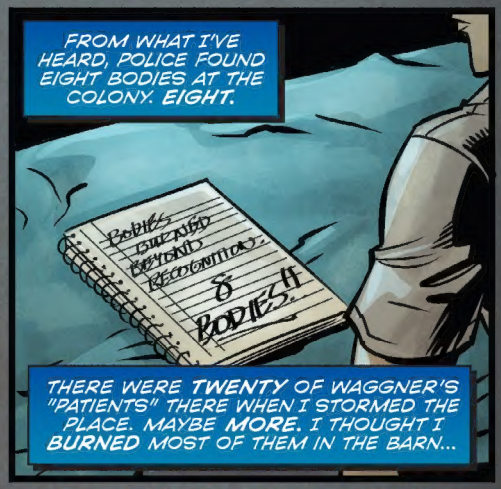
NEWS
LOS ANGELES, 1981.
A SECRET SOCIETY EXISTS, AND IS LIVING AMONG ALL OF US...
THREE WEEKS AGO I SHOT MY GOOD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE KAREN WHITE.
TONIGHT I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU S-SOMETHING, TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE...
WITH A SILVER BULLET...
ON LIVE T.V.
BOOM
AAH!
I HAVEN'T SLEPT A FULL NIGHT SINCE.

IT HAD BEEN KAREN'S IDEA AFTER THE EVENTS AT THE COLONY...TO CHANGE IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. TO REVEAL THE CURSE...
AND TO BE FREED FROM IT.
WHEN I TOLD THE AUTHORITIES WHY I DID WHAT I DID, THE PROSECUTION FIGURED I WAS ANGLING FOR AN INSANITY DEFENSE.
ONLY PROBLEM WAS, THE ENTIRE NEWS TEAM SAW THE SAME THING--KAREN TRANSFORMING INTO SOME KIND OF ANIMAL.
BY THE TIME COPS SHOWED UP KAREN'S BODY HAD TURNED BACK TO NORMAL. BECAUSE THAT'S HOW THE CURSE WORKS.
INVESTIGATORS ARE STILL TRYING TO PUZZLE OUT WHAT HAPPENED.
AND THOUGH FEATURE PRODUCERS LIKE ME MAKE DECENT MONEY...
IT STILL TOOK EVERY PENNY I HAD TO MAKE BAIL.
HEY BABE.
MY GIRL TERRY WAS THE FIRST TO DIE THAT NIGHT. A VICTIM OF SOME MANIAC NAMED EDDIE QUIST. EDDIE THE MANGLER.

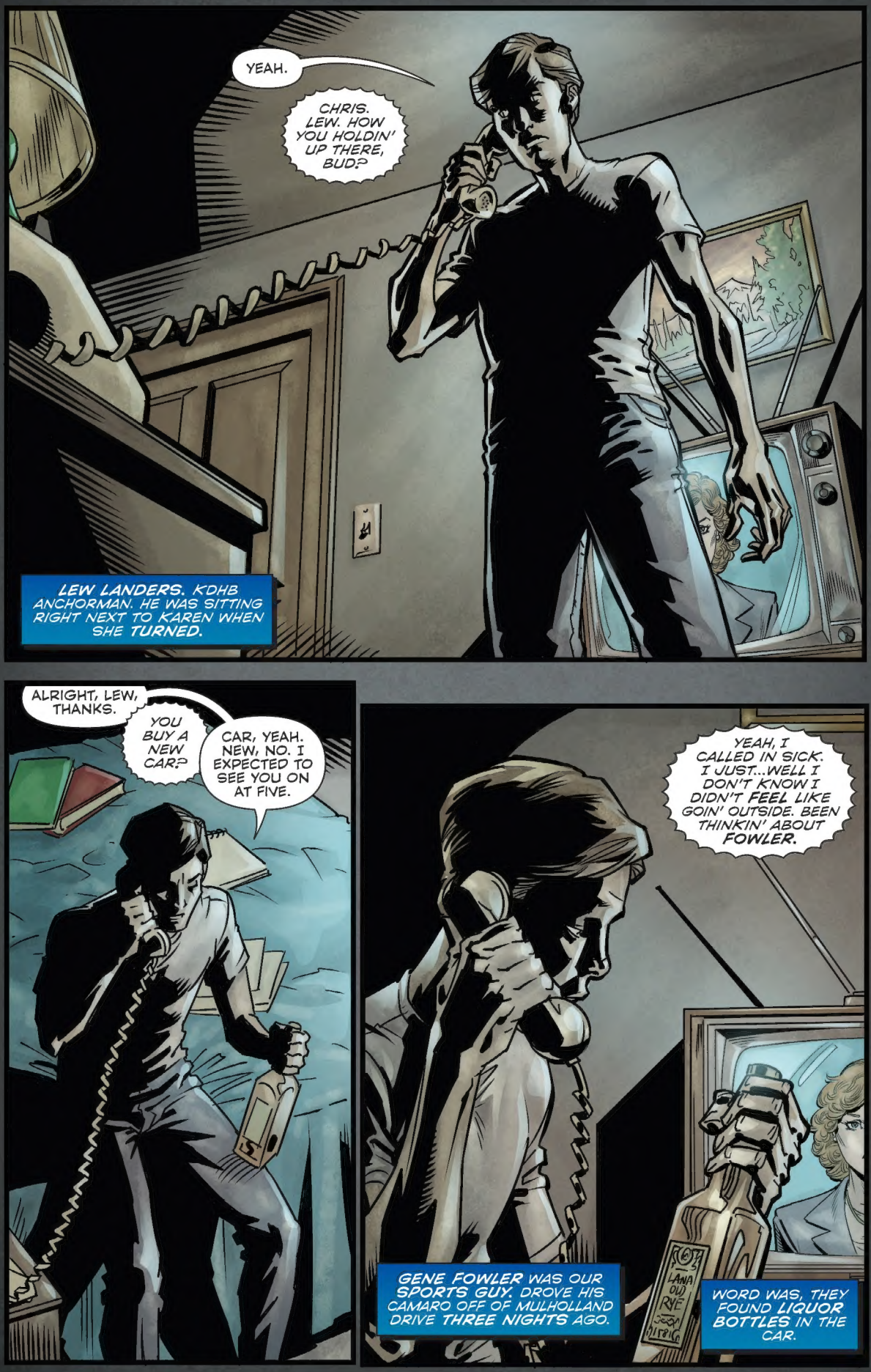
KAREN WHITE HAD BEEN WORKING WITH POLICE TO LINK EDDIE TO A STRING OF SERIAL KILLINGS AND KDHB WAS COVERING IT. TERRY WAS MY PROGRAM ASSISTANT.
POLICE HAD KILLED EDDIE. OR AT LEAST, THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD.
BUT EDDIE CAME BACK. BECAUSE HE WAS ONE OF THEM. JUST LIKE OUR SO-CALLED PSYCHOLOGY EXPERT DOCTOR GEORGE WAGGNER...
JUST LIKE ALL THE FREAKS AT HIS "COLONY" OUT IN THE WOODS.
TERRY AND I...WE HAD OUR SHARE OF ROUGH PATCHES, BUT I KNEW DEEP DOWN THAT SHE WAS THE ONE.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BUILD A FUTURE TOGETHER. OUR WHOLE LIVES WERE AHEAD OF US.
TERRY
NOW ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS HOW TO ENSURE THAT KAREN AND TERRY DIDN'T DIE IN VAIN.

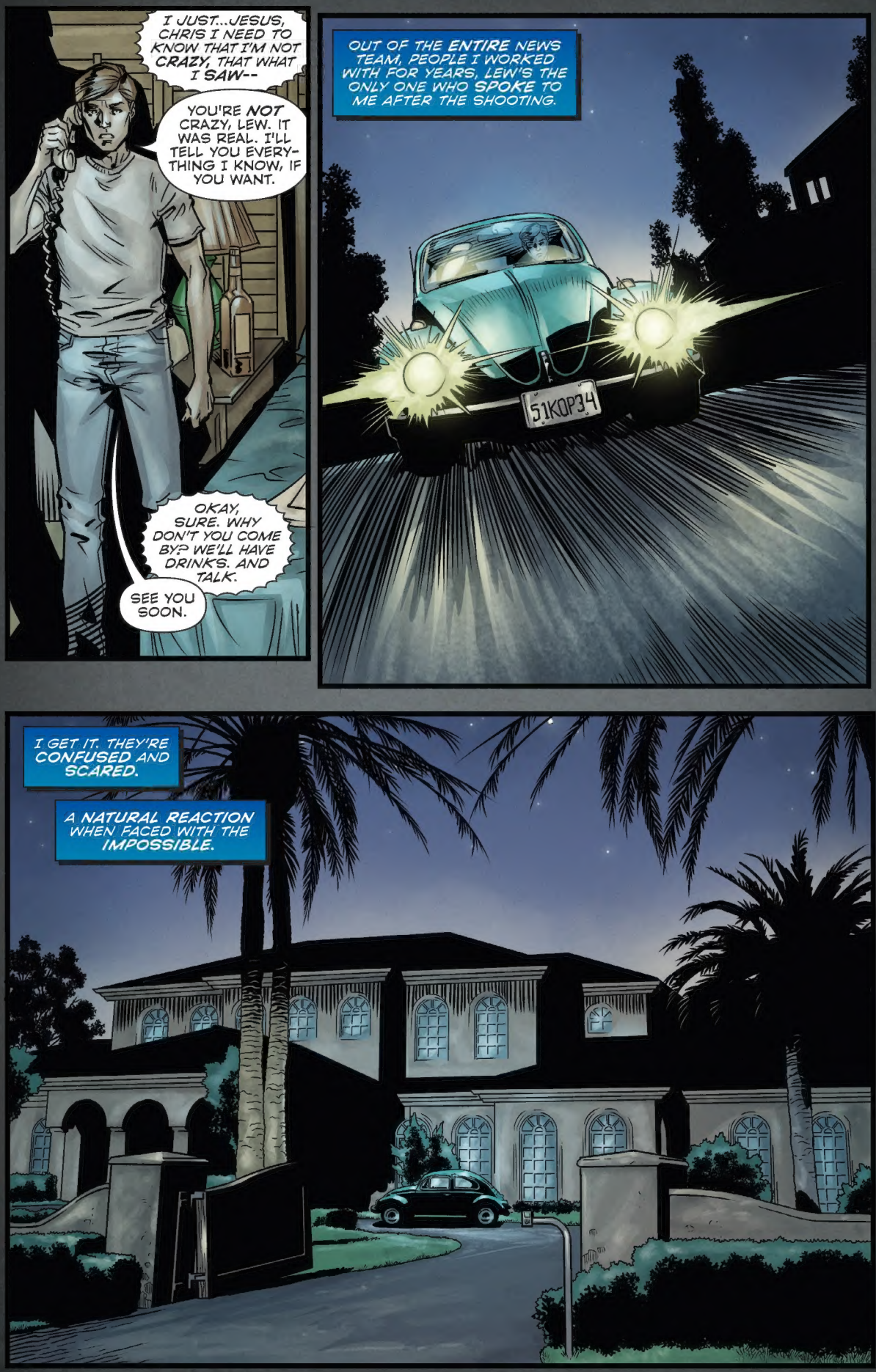

THIS IS KDHB ACTION NEWS AT 5. I'M ANNE STERLING, FILLING IN FOR LEW LANDERS.
OUR TOP STORY TONIGHT--ONE MAN IS WOUNDED IN A SHOOTOUT AT A CONVENIENCE STORE IN WHAT POLICE ARE CALLING A--

THE SAME NEWS, DAY IN AND DAY OUT. THERE SHOULD BE... OUTRAGE. A CALL TO ACTION. SOMETHING.
THREE WEEKS AND IT'S LIKE NONE OF IT EVER HAPPENED.


FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, POLICE FOUND EIGHT BODIES AT THE COLONY. EIGHT.
BODIES BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION
8 BODIES
THERE WERE TWENTY OF WAGGNER'S "PATIENTS" THERE WHEN I STORMED THE PLACE. MAYBE MORE. I THOUGHT I BURNED MOST OF THEM IN THE BARN...

RRRRINNNNNNGGG
LANA DU RYE
WHAT IF I WAS WRONG?


YEAH.
CHRIS. LEW. HOW YOU HOLDIN' UP THERE, BUD?
LEW LANDERS. KDHB ANCHORMAN. HE WAS SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO KAREN WHEN SHE TURNED.
ALRIGHT, LEW, THANKS.
YOU BUY A NEW CAR?
CAR, YEAH. NEW, NO. I EXPECTED TO SEE YOU ON AT FIVE.
YEAH, I CALLED IN SICK. I JUST...WELL I DON'T KNOW I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE GOIN' OUTSIDE. BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT FOWLER.
GENE FOWLER WAS OUR SPORTS GUY. DROVE HIS CAMARO OFF OF MULHOLLAND DRIVE THREE NIGHTS AGO.
WORD WAS, THEY FOUND LIQUOR BOTTLES IN THE CAR.


I JUST...JESUS, CHRIS I NEED TO KNOW THAT I'M NOT CRAZY, THAT WHAT I SAW--
YOU'RE NOT CRAZY, LEW. IT WAS REAL. I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW, IF YOU WANT.
OKAY, SURE. WHY DON'T YOU COME BY? WE'LL HAVE DRINKS. AND TALK.
SEE YOU SOON.
OUT OF THE ENTIRE NEWS TEAM, PEOPLE I WORKED WITH FOR YEARS, LEW'S THE ONLY ONE WHO SPOKE TO ME AFTER THE SHOOTING.
51KOP34
I GET IT. THEY'RE CONFUSED AND SCARED.
A NATURAL REACTION WHEN FACED WITH THE IMPOSSIBLE.

I CAN HEAR THE TV...
LEW?
GODDAMNIT, LEW.

SANTA CRUZ.
ONE A.M.
AREN'T YOU THE NIGHT OWL.
KLIK

YOU DON'T READ THIS TRASH, DO YOU?
The Gift
George Wagner, MD
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
I'M MARSHA. YOU'RE VERA. NAMES AND LABELS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO YOU PEOPLE. I'M SURE DOCTOR WAGGNER WOULD HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT...
HE THOUGHT HE WAS SO SMART. USED A LOT OF FANCY WORDS.
BUT HE WAS A FOOL.
WHAT DO YOU WANT? ARE YOU SCREWING MY HUSBAND?
THUMP

NOT RIGHT NOW. RIGHT NOW I'M GETTING TO KNOW YOU, VERA. WHAT WORK DO YOU DO?
I--I DEAL IN ANTIQUES.
THAT'S WHAT YOU TELL PEOPLE YOU DO. BEFORE MY BROTHERS AND I WENT TO LAY LOW IN THE COLONY, WE HEARD ABOUT YOU. NO, WHAT YOU DO IS SOMETHING, IT'S CALLED...
"BROKER!" THAT'S IT. BROKER.
FANCY WORD.
SNAP
CURT!
CURT GET DOWN HERE!

I'M NOT A BIG CITY PERSON BUT THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, YOU INTRODUCE PEOPLE. BUYERS AND SELLERS, EXCEPT WHAT THEY BUY AND SELL IS ON THE BLACK MARKET.
GET OUT OF MY HOUSE, YOU LUNATIC!
CURT!
NOW! GET OUT OR I SWEAR TO GOD--
SWEAR ALL YOU WANT-- GOD'S NOT LISTENING. PULL THE TRIGGER.
AAAGH!
BOOM

YOU'RE A LOUSY SHOT, VERA.
Umh!
YEARS AGO YOU ARRANGED A SALE. A RELIC CALLED THE HAND OF AKKARA. WHO BOUGHT IT?
Uh, uh VALENTINE. J-JOE VALENTINE.
CEO OF PR-PRIMA-CORPS. WHAT ARE YOU--

I'M SO GLAD WE HAD THIS *TALK*. BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO *JOIN CURT*.
JESUS GOD *oh* JESUS...
HELP! oh GOD HELP! *ANYONE!*

HELP! PLEASE HELP!
THUMP THUMP THUMP
DOCTOR WAGGNER TALKED ABOUT NOT DENYING THE BEAST...

TURKEY SHOOT
Shuff, huff, huff...
AND YET HE WANTED US TO LIVE AMONG THEM. PEOPLE. BLEND IN.
FEED ON CATTLE OUT AT THE COLONY...

TAROT
HE WANTED US TO "CHANNEL OUR ENERGIES" IN POSITIVE DIRECTIONS...
Ungh!
STUPID OLD MAN
HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...

AAAAGHHH!
THAT FEAR HAS A TASTE.
AND THERE IS NONE GREATER.
HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN THE THRILL OF THE CHASE.
GRRRRRRR
huh-huh-huh...

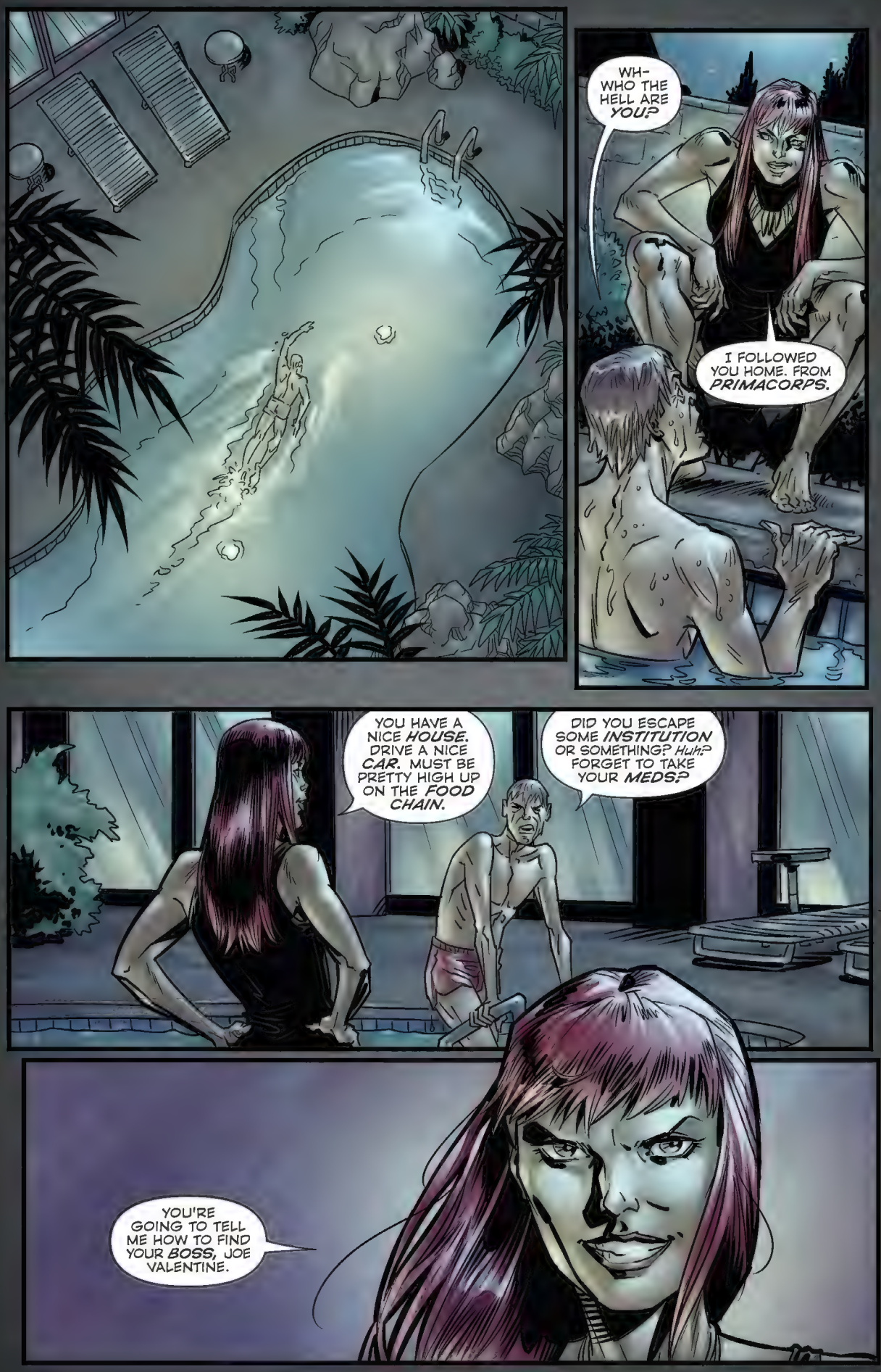
I REMEMBER THE OLD WAYS. WHEN WE WERE THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN.
OH G--OH GOD...

WE WERE GODS AMONG SHEEP.

FOR ALL HIS SMARTS, WAGGNER REFUSED TO LISTEN--WAS TOO BLIND TO SEE THAT IN THE END IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO ONE SIMPLE TRUTH...

YOU CAN'T TAME WHAT'S MEANT TO BE WILD.
ARROOOOO!

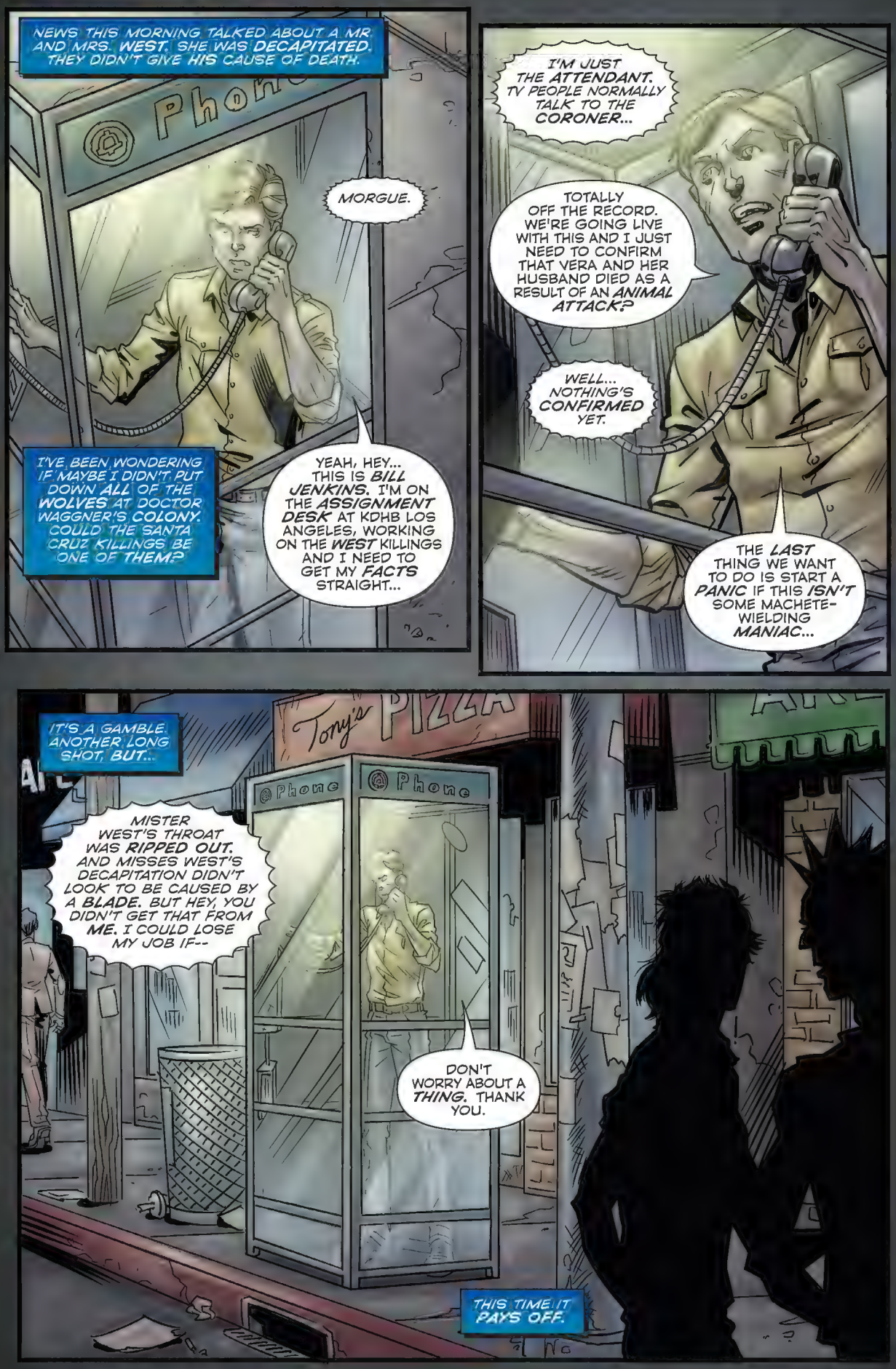
CHAPTER 2

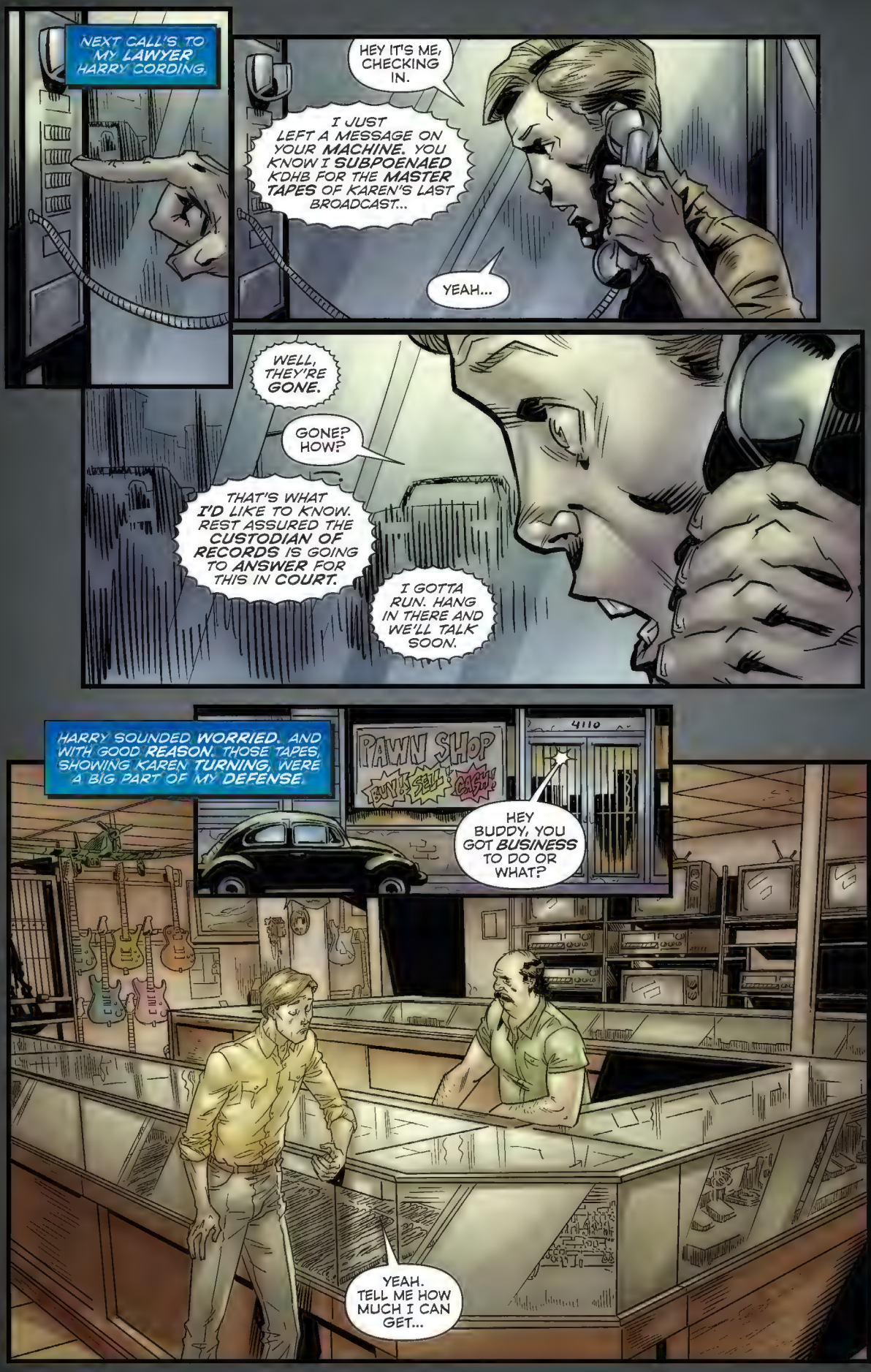

WH- WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
I FOLLOWED YOU HOME. FROM PRIMACORPS.
YOU HAVE A NICE HOUSE. DRIVE A NICE CAR. MUST BE PRETTY HIGH UP ON THE FOOD CHAIN.
DID YOU ESCAPE SOME INSTITUTION OR SOMETHING? Huh? FORGET TO TAKE YOUR MEDS?
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME HOW TO FIND YOUR BOSS, JOE VALENTINE.

LISTEN, YOU DUMB-ASS--
GNNGH!
YOUR BOSS. WHERE?
AGGHH--
JESUS! I'VE NEVER B-BEEN TO HIS HOUSE, BUT TOMORROW-- K-KISMET.
SOME TRENDY NIGHT CLUB DOWNTOWN. HE'S THERE EVERY F-FRIDAY NIGHT.
GAAAGGGHHH!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. TIME TO SAY GOOD NIGHT.
AHHH--

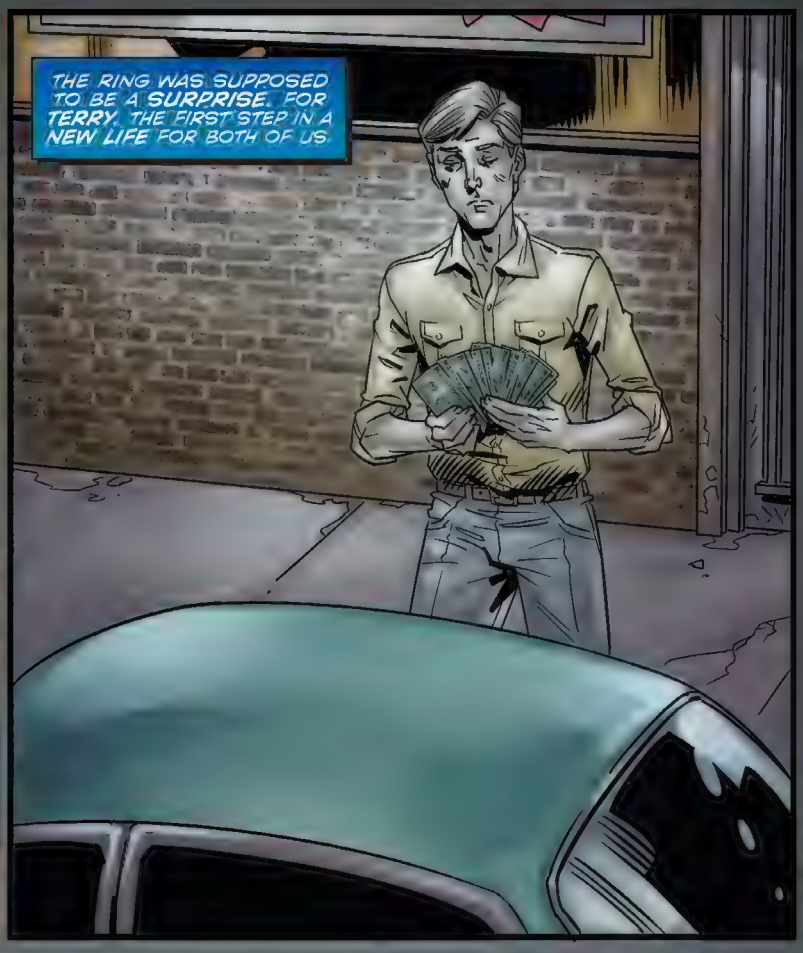
KOHB NEWS
FIRST OUR SPORTS GUY GENE FOWLER GETS DRUNK AND DRIVES OFF A CLIFF. THEN LEW PUTS A TWELVE GAUGE IN HIS MOUTH AND PULLS THE TRIGGER.
FRED!
CHRIS? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU KNOW ABOUT LEW--
OF COURSE I KNOW ABOUT LEW. WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER A RETROSPECTIVE FOR HIM AND GENE. PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--
BEFORE LEW KILLED HIMSELF, HE CALLED ME AND SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO OUTSIDE BECAUSE HE'D BEEN THINKING ABOUT GENE.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT LEW WAS JUST DOWN. BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THAT CONVERSATION'S BEEN BUGGING ME. HE DIDN'T JUST SOUND SAD. HE SOUNDED AFRAID.
TALKING TO THE OLD MAN'S A LONG SHOT, BUT I TELL MYSELF IT'S WORTH A TRY.
LISTEN, LEW CALLED ME LAST NIGHT. HE WANTED TO TALK. WANTED ME TO COME OVER.
DOES THAT SOUND LIKE SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR TO YOU? AND WHAT ABOUT GENE? YOU EVER KNOW HIM TO BE A HEAVY DRINKER?

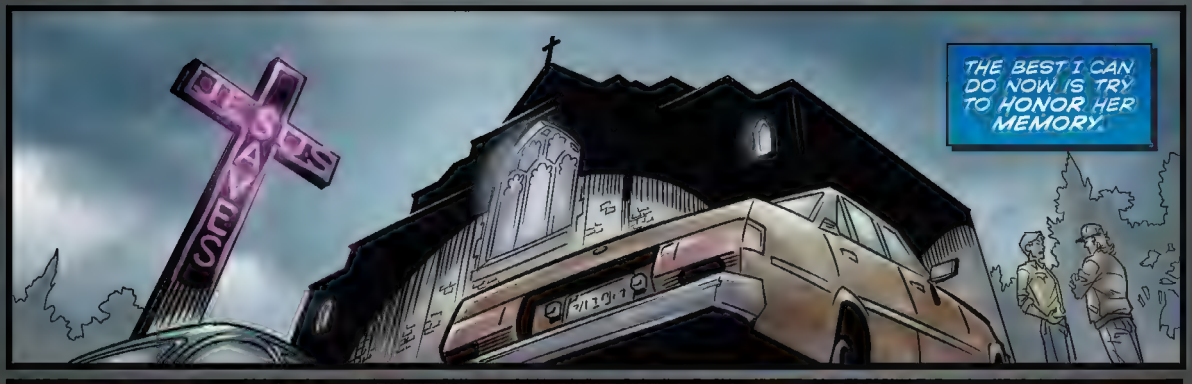
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THE L.A. COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY FILED FOR A CONTINUANCE AND NOW KEY WITNESSES ARE DYING BEFORE THE PRELIMINARY HEARING. DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT?
RESERVED
FRED FRANCIS
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
WHAT IF THEY COME AFTER YOU NEXT? WE ALL SAW THE SAME THING. HELL, YOU WERE IN THE CONTROL BOOTH WHEN KAREN CHANGED!
I DIDN'T SEE A DAMN THING EXCEPT YOU POINTING A RIFLE AT HER AND PULLING THE TRIGGER! CHRIST, I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE TALKING TO YOU WITHOUT A LAWYER PRESENT.
THEY ALREADY GOT TO YOU, DIDN'T THEY? THAT'S WHAT THIS IS...WHAT DID THEY DO, THREATEN YOU? YOUR FAMILY?
ARE YOU HEARING YOURSELF? YOU LOOK LIKE HELL. GO HOME. GRIEVE.
DON'T MAKE ME GET A RESTRAINING ORDER.
SO MUCH FOR THE LONG SHOT.

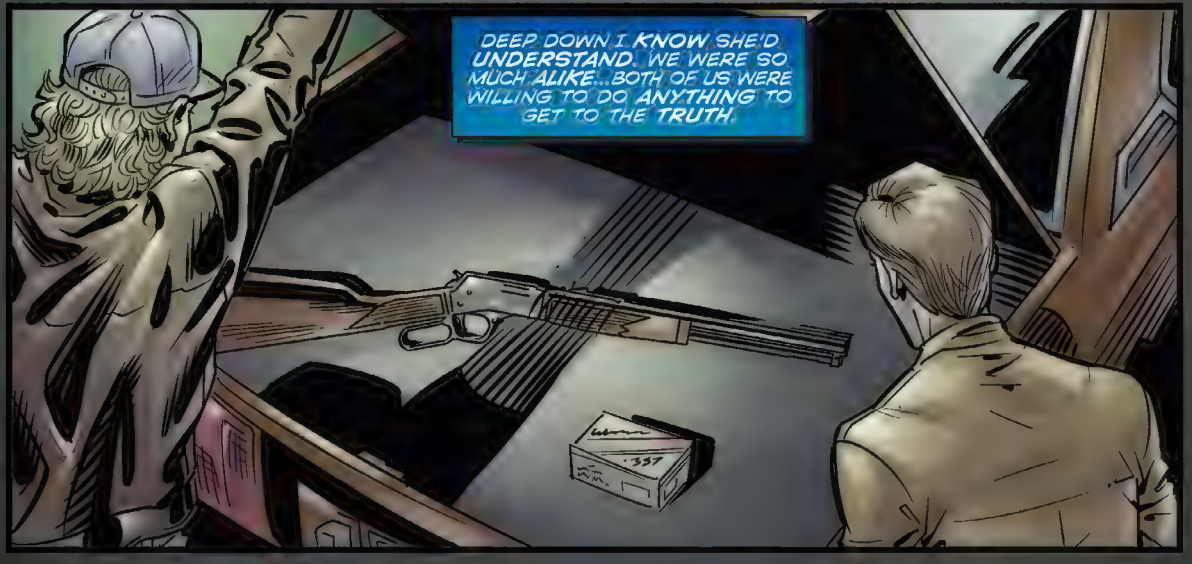

NEWS THIS MORNING TALKED ABOUT A MR. AND MRS. WEST. SHE WAS DECAPITATED. THEY DIDN'T GIVE HIS CAUSE OF DEATH.
MORGUE.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING IF MAYBE I DIDN'T PUT DOWN ALL OF THE WOLVES AT DOCTOR WAGGNER'S COLONY. COULD THE SANTA CRUZ KILLINGS BE ONE OF THEM?
YEAH, HEY... THIS IS BILL JENKINS. I'M ON THE ASSIGNMENT DESK AT KDHB LOS ANGELES, WORKING ON THE WEST KILLINGS AND I NEED TO GET MY FACTS STRAIGHT...
I'M JUST THE ATTENDANT. TV PEOPLE NORMALLY TALK TO THE CORONER...
TOTALLY OFF THE RECORD. WE'RE GOING LIVE WITH THIS AND I JUST NEED TO CONFIRM THAT VERA AND HER HUSBAND DIED AS A RESULT OF AN ANIMAL ATTACK?
WELL... NOTHING'S CONFIRMED YET.
THE LAST THING WE WANT TO DO IS START A PANIC IF THIS ISN'T SOME MACHETE-WIELDING MANIAC...
IT'S A GAMBLE. ANOTHER LONG SHOT, BUT...
Tony's PIZZA
Phone
Phone
MISTER WEST'S THROAT WAS RIPPED OUT. AND MISSES WEST'S DECAPITATION DIDN'T LOOK TO BE CAUSED BY A BLADE. BUT HEY, YOU DIDN'T GET THAT FROM ME. I COULD LOSE MY JOB IF--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING. THANK YOU.
THIS TIME IT PAYS OFF.


NEXT CALL'S TO MY LAWYER HARRY CORDING.
HEY IT'S ME, CHECKING IN.
I JUST LEFT A MESSAGE ON YOUR MACHINE. YOU KNOW I SUBPOENAED KDHB FOR THE MASTER TAPES OF KAREN'S LAST BROADCAST...
YEAH...
WELL, THEY'RE GONE.
GONE? HOW?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW. REST ASSURED THE CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS IS GOING TO ANSWER FOR THIS IN COURT.
I GOTTA RUN. HANG IN THERE AND WE'LL TALK SOON.
HARRY SOUNDED WORRIED. AND WITH GOOD REASON. THOSE TAPES, SHOWING KAREN TURNING, WERE A BIG PART OF MY DEFENSE.
PAWN SHOP
BUY
SELL
4110
HEY BUDDY, YOU GOT BUSINESS TO DO OR WHAT?
YEAH. TELL ME HOW MUCH I CAN GET...

FOR THIS.


THE RING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE. FOR TERRY. THE FIRST STEP IN A NEW LIFE FOR BOTH OF US.


THE BEST I CAN DO NOW IS TRY TO HONOR HER MEMORY.


DEEP DOWN I KNOW SHE'D UNDERSTAND. WE WERE SO MUCH ALIKE...BOTH OF US WERE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO GET TO THE TRUTH.
.357

THE OTHER SIDE
WALTER--
Secrets of the Succubus
THE OTHER SIDE
YEAH! WADDAYA-- oh, HEY. GOOD MORNIN'.
COME ON OVER AND--
HEY KID, YOU ARE NOT OLD ENOUGH. COME BACK IN TEN YEARS.
HERE'S THOSE BOOKS. NOW, MY FRIEND, YOU HAVE JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING WRITTEN ON SHAPE-SHIFTERS.
LOOK I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SAY, AFTER THAT WHOLE THING...THE NEWSLADY, KAREN...YA KNOW I USED TO BE A SKEPTIC. NO MORE, NO SIR. NOT AFTER WHAT I SAW.
I'M TELLIN' YA', I LOOK AT ALL THIS STUFF IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT.

I'M GLAD TO *HEAR* THAT BECAUSE I WANTED TO ASK...IF YOU COULD GET ME MORE OF THOSE *SILVER BULLETS.*
WELL YEAH--
AS *SOON* AS YOU CAN. .357. *LIVES* COULD DEPEND ON IT. *MY* LIFE COULD DEPEND ON IT.
I'LL CALL MY GUY RIGHT AWAY. PUT A *RUSH* ON IT.
IT MEANS A LOT.
HEY, YOU GONNA' *BUY* THAT?

OOF!
SORRY ABOUT THAT I DIDN'T EVEN--
THEY'RE *WATCHING.*
WHAT?
JUST ACT *NORMAL.* THEY'RE WATCHING *EVERY MOVE.*
FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS. I CAN *HELP* YOU. HELP PROVE *EVERYTHING.*
MAYBE MY LUCK'S CHANGING. MAYBE TERRY'S UP THERE, LOOKING DOWN. KNOWING THAT THE TRUTH IS WITHIN REACH...
AND HELPING ME GET ONE STEP CLOSER.

YOU MOVE FAST.
WHEN I KNOW WHAT I WANT, I TAKE IT.
:sniff:
I CAN RESPECT THAT.
WE SHOULD GO SOMEWHERE. GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER.
I'VE GOT A MRS. VALENTINE AT HOME WHO THINKS I'M WORKING LATE, SO THAT'S OUT.
WE COULD GO TO YOUR OFFICE. YOU CAN SHOW ME YOUR FANCY DESK. GET TO KNOW ME BETTER ON TOP OF IT...

HERE WE ARE, BABY. TOP OF THE WORLD.
NICE COLLECTION.
YEAH WE DO DEFENSE CONTRACT WORK SOMETIMES...
OLD WEAPONS, OLD BATTLES. THE BRASS EAT IT UP.
I'M A COLLECTOR TOO. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMETHING. A SPECIAL RELIC...

THE HAND OF AKKARA.
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
YOU BOUGHT THE HAND OF AKKARA ON THE BLACK MARKET. WHERE IS IT?
LOOK BABE I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS BUT--
AAGGH!
SONOFA-!
TALK. OR SHOULD I TWIST?
OKAY OKAY OKAY...

BEHIND THE P-PAINTING.
KLIK
OPEN IT.
YEAH. OKAY, YOU BET...
HERE IT'S--HEY WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
RUNNING IN THE HALL. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COMPANY.

SMASH
YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US...
THIS BROAD STUCK A SWORD IN ME. SHOOT HER.
OOH, YES. GO AHEAD.
WHAT THE F--
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
SLNK
BOOM
BOOM

SPACK
SPACK
AAAGHH!
SPACK
UNGH!
AAGGHH!
SNAP
KRAK

Unh, unh...
KRAK
POP
AAAAHHHH!
HUNH!

KRAK
AAAAAAHHHHH!
SMASH

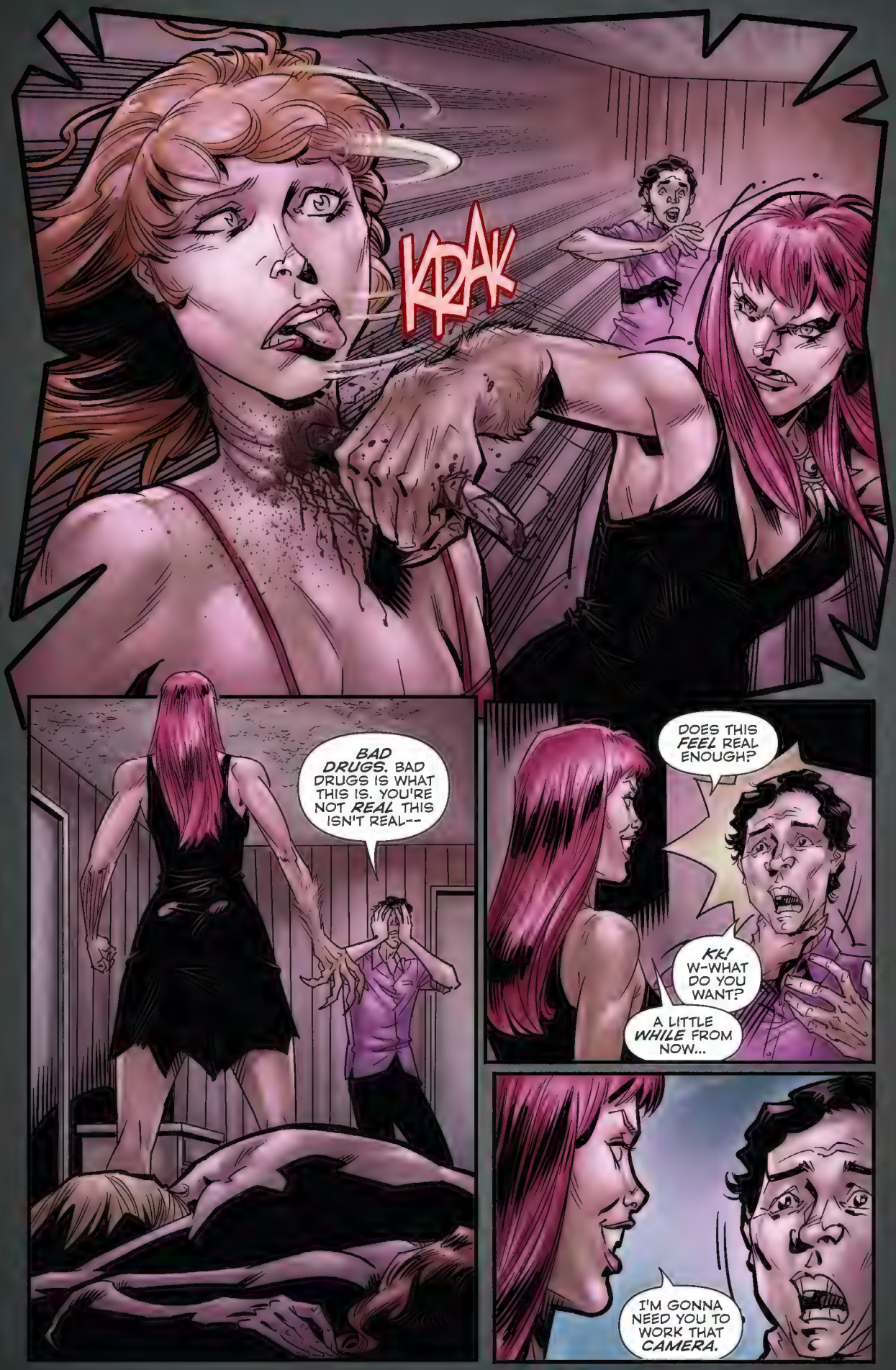
THESE CHILDREN THINK THEY KNOW WAR. THINK THEY KNOW VIOLENCE. THEY KNOW NOTHING.
TRUE WARFARE STRETCHES BACK FURTHER THAN WHAT'S BEEN WRITTEN IN BOOKS.
MUCH, MUCH FURTHER...

TO AN AGE UNDREAMED OF. A DARK ERA OF SHIFTER KINGS AND QUEENS, GODS AND GODDESSES. A TIME WHEN THE EARLIEST HUMANS WERE NOTHING MORE THAN FOOD.
NOW THE CYCLE WILL BEGIN ANEW. I WILL RESTORE THE NATURAL ORDER... AND RESURRECT THAT LONG FORGOTTEN AGE...
WHEN SHIFTERS RULED THE EARTH.

CHAPTER 3
CARLOS EDUARDO '17

GOOD. THAT'S IT, SHOW EACH OTHER SOME *LOVE*...
TONGUE WRESTLE FOR A BIT AND THEN LET'S GET THOSE *TOPS* OFF...
AM I *INTERRUPTING?*
WHO THE HELL ARE *YOU?*
IF THIS IS A *THREE-WAY* I WANT MORE *CASH!*
YOU TWO-- *LEAVE.* NOW.

HEY, IF YOU THINK FOR ONE SECOND--
AGH! AHH!
AHHH! GODDD!
YAAAHHH--
HUKH!


KRAK
BAD DRUGS. BAD DRUGS IS WHAT THIS IS. YOU'RE NOT REAL THIS ISN'T REAL--
DOES THIS FEEL REAL ENOUGH?
KK! W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
A LITTLE WHILE FROM NOW...
I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO WORK THAT CAMERA.

FRED FRANCIS. LEAVE A MESSAGE.
BEEP
NOTICE
Rent Overdu
HEY, IT'S CHRIS. I WOULDN'T CALL IF IT WASN'T IMPORTANT. NEW INFORMATION'S COME TO LIGHT, EVIDENCE THAT'S GONNA BLOW EVERYTHING WIDE OPEN.
I'VE GOT A MEETING SET UP WITH CAROL COOKE, YOU KNOW HER, FROM KHWP. TWO O'CLOCK AT MOTEL BELA. BUT LISTEN IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR KDHB TO GET THE EXCLUSIVE.
OKAY? CALL ME. YOU CAN STILL DO THE RIGHT THING.
MOTEL BELA

IT'S ONE THIRTY AT THE BELA WHEN I HEAR FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE THE ROOM.
226
COME ON IN.
LOWER THE GUN. NICE AND SLOW.

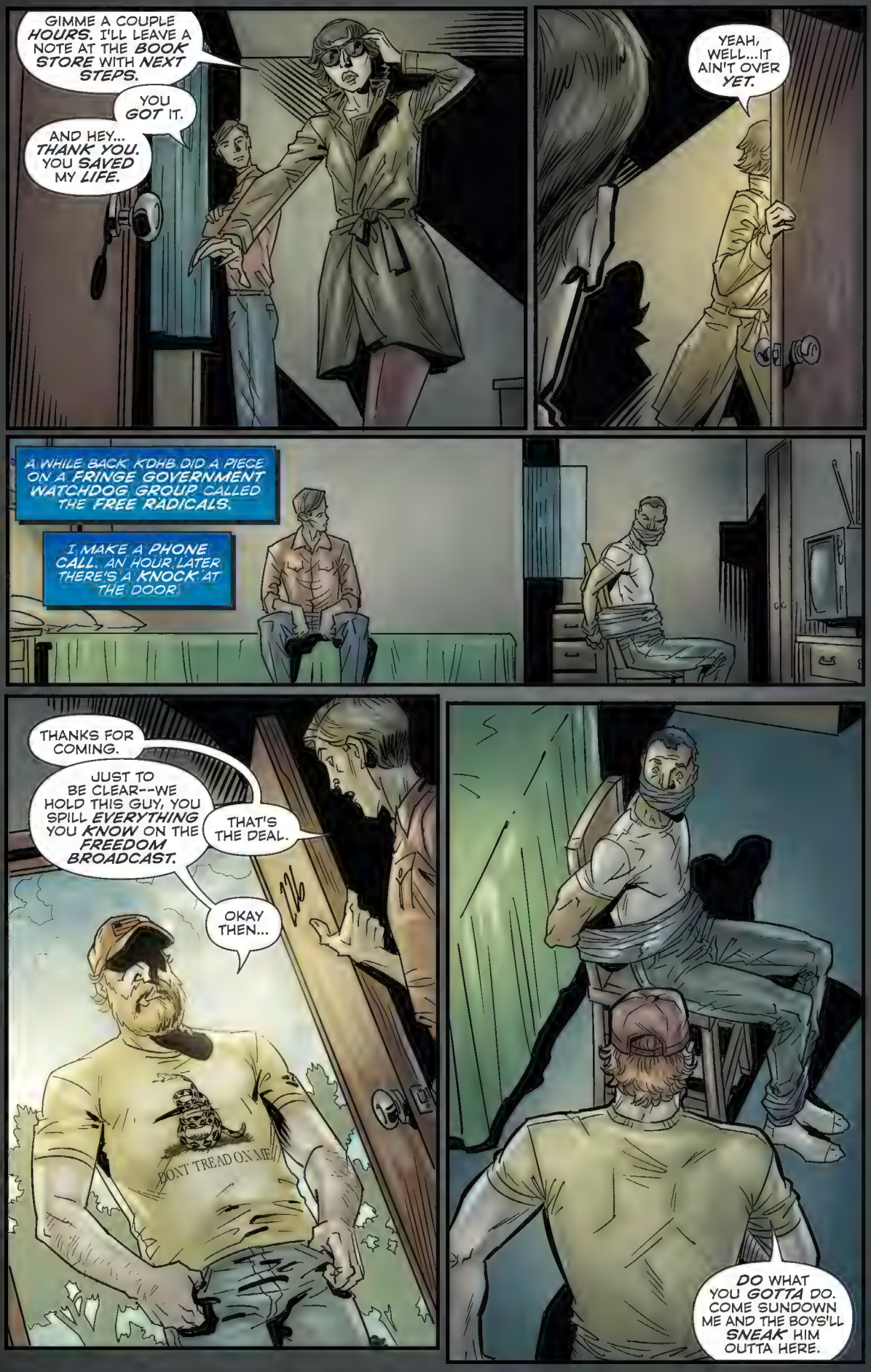
YOU THE ONE WHO MADE LEW SUCK ON A SHOTGUN? YOU POUR ALCOHOL DOWN GENE'S THROAT AND DRIVE HIM OFF OF MULHOLLAND?
WHAT'D YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR ME? ACCIDENT? ANOTHER SUICIDE? OR MAYBE JUST MAKE ME DISAPPEAR?
YOU KNOW WHAT, IT DOESN'T MATTER. EITHER WAY...
WE WERE EXPECTING YOU.
WOK

WELL, YOU WERE *RIGHT* ABOUT THIS GUY. AND ABOUT FRED.
YOU KNEW ABOUT FRED *TOO.*

I *SUSPECTED,* YEAH.
I.D.'s A *FAKE,* YOU CAN *BET* ON IT.
THE WOMAN'S NAME IS **RUTH.** WE DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO TALK BEFORE OUR **VISITOR** CAME. I DON'T KNOW MUCH OTHER THAN SHE CLAIMS TO BE A FORMER **FBI FIELD AGENT.**
AND...

YOU SAID YOU HAD *EVIDENCE. PROOF...*

I DO. MY DEPARTMENT WAS TASKED WITH *PROVING* OR *DISPROVING* THE EXISTENCE OF *SHAPE-SHIFTERS*. WE COLLECTED *SIGNATURES*. WRITTEN *TESTIMONY*...
FOUND PEOPLE WILLING TO *TESTIFY* BEFORE A *COMMITTEE* THAT WEREWOLVES ARE *REAL*.
AND THEN OUT OF NOWHERE MY DEPARTMENT GOT *DISSOLVED*. ALL OUR *WORK CONFISCATED*. I *KNEW* SOMETHING BAD WAS COMING SO I *LEFT*. WENT *UNDERGROUND*.
MY OLD PARTNER STAYED *ON* AND WE'VE KEPT IN *TOUCH*. HE MADE *COPIES* OF *EVERYTHING*. I'M GOING TO MEET HIM *NOW*.
I'LL GO *WITH* YOU.
NO. YOU'D JUST *SPOOK* HIM. BESIDES, YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHERE TO STASH THIS GUY.
I HAVE A FEW *IDEAS*.


GIMME A COUPLE HOURS. I'LL LEAVE A NOTE AT THE BOOK STORE WITH NEXT STEPS.
YOU GOT IT.
AND HEY... THANK YOU. YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
YEAH, WELL...IT AIN'T OVER YET.
A WHILE BACK KDHB DID A PIECE ON A FRINGE GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG GROUP CALLED THE FREE RADICALS.
I MAKE A PHONE CALL. AN HOUR LATER THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.
THANKS FOR COMING.
JUST TO BE CLEAR--WE HOLD THIS GUY, YOU SPILL EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ON THE FREEDOM BROADCAST.
THAT'S THE DEAL.
OKAY THEN...
DON'T TREAD ON ME
DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO. COME SUNDOWN ME AND THE BOYS'LL SNEAK HIM OUTTA HERE.

BOOKS
6607
OTHER SIDE
WALTER, DID YOU GET A NOTE FOR ME?
OH, HEY! YEAH I DID...
GOOD LOOKIN' GAL LEFT IT JUST A BIT AGO.
WHAT'S WRONG, KID?

I HAVE RUTH. EROS. FIVE P.M.
IT'S...IT'S A FRIEND OF MINE. SHE MAY BE IN TROUBLE.
OH NO. WELL HEY, IF IT'S ANY HELP AT ALL...
THOSE SILVER BULLETS CAME IN.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT GOVERNMENT AGENTS GOT AHOLD OF RUTH BUT THE EROS?
NO. THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE.
51KOP34

EROS IS THE SAME PORN SHOP THAT EDDIE QUIST LURED KAREN TO, WHERE HE WAS SHOT BY THE POLICE.
EROS
XXX
MOVIES
25¢
MAGAZINES
WHAT EXACTLY AM I WALKING INTO HERE?
THERE HAD BEEN A STICKER ON THIS DOOR, A SIGNAL FROM EDDIE TO LET KAREN KNOW WHICH BOOTH TO ENTER...
THE BOOTH IS EMPTY. I PUT A QUARTER IN THE SLOT, SIT...AND WAIT.
IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE MOVIE TO START.
THAT THING ON?
Y-YEAH.

HELLO CHRIS. I HAVE SOMEONE HERE. SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU...
MAYBE NOT THE WAY MY BROTHERS WERE IMPORTANT TO ME, BUT IMPORTANT STILL...
MAYBE NOT THE WAY TERRY WAS IMPORTANT...
MARSHA QUIST. EDDIE THE MANGLER WAS HER BROTHER. AND THERE WAS ANOTHER--T.C. I KILLED THEM BOTH AT THE COLONY.
THOUGHT I'D BURNED HER IN THE BARN.
YOU AND ME, WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
YOU'LL RETURN TO THE COLONY. TONIGHT.
IF YOU DON'T...WELL I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF. RUTH HERE WILL CERTAINLY FIND OUT.
AND THEN I'LL TRACK YOU DOWN AND KILL YOU ANYWAY.
THE MOVIE ENDS AND ALL AT ONCE I'M A LITTLE BOY AGAIN. ALONE IN THE DARK. I KNOW NOW WHAT I BELIEVED THEN...
THAT IN THE DARK, THERE ARE MONSTERS.

SCRRCH!!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
I'LL CATCH YOU UP, BUT FIRST I NEED TO TALK TO OUR FRIEND.
DONT TREAD ON ME
LISTEN UP AND LISTEN GOOD...
I WANT TO MAKE A DEAL.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME BACK AT THE COLONY. MORE SHIFTERS, MOST LIKELY SOME KIND OF A TRAP, DEFINITELY.
A SMALL VOICE DEEP INSIDE KEEPS TELLING ME TO RUN. RUN AND HIDE AND NEVER LOOK BACK.
BUT AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, AFTER TERRY AND KAREN... I WON'T LET RUTH DIE, KNOWING I MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED IT. THIS ENDS TONIGHT.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
51KOP34
I ARRIVE. AT THE ONLY STRUCTURE STILL STANDING...

DOCTOR WAGGNER'S MEDICAL OFFICE
THIS IS WHERE EDDIE KILLED TERRY...
BEFORE I KILLED HIM.
ARE YOU OKAY?
A LITTLE SHAKEN, BUT YEAH I'M OKAY.
WHOOP
WHOOP
DO YOU KNOW WHERE MARSHA IS? WHAT SHE HAS PLANNED?
NO, I-- WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
THAT WOULD BE INSURANCE POLICY NUMBER ONE--BIG BROTHER.

YOU TOLD THEM?
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MARSHA WOULD THROW AT US. SO I GAMBLED. TOLD OUR PRISONER I COULD GIVE HIS BOSSES THE WOLVES IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR LIVES.
SECURE THE PERIMETER! GO! GO!
YOU KNOW THEY WON'T LET US LEAVE HERE ALIVE.
I KNOW.
ATTENTION JACK-BOOTED TYRANTS!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
THAT'D BE INSURANCE POLICY NUMBER TWO.

WE ARE THE FREE RADICALS AND THIS IS THE FREEDOM BROADCAST!
I THOUGHT *MAYBE*, WITH *BOTH* GROUPS HERE...JUST MAYBE WE COULD WALK OUT OF THIS *ALIVE*.
YOU SHOULD *PLAY* THE *TAPE*.
PLAY ME

THE TRUTH WILL NOT BE SILENCED!
STOP TRANSMITTING! SHUT IT DOWN!
YOU DROP YOURS, FASCIST PIG!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS! DO IT NOW!
OTHER THAN ME, ONLY A HANDFUL OF US SURVIVED THE NIGHT CHRIS WENT ON HIS KILLING SPREE. JUST A FEW OF US...
NOT NEARLY ENOUGH FOR WHAT'S WAITING DOWN THERE.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

THERE IS A LONG-ENDURING LEGEND, OF THAT LONG-AGO AGE WHEN GODS AND GODDESSES WALKED AMONG MORTALS--OF THE SHIFTER WAR...
AND OF AKKARA, THE WEREWOLF QUEEN. SHE LED HER ARMIES AGAINST MULTITUDES. BEFORE SHE COULD SECURE HER FINAL VICTORY, HOWEVER, SHE WAS BETRAYED. HER ARMIES DECIMATED...
BUT AKKARA'S GODDESS WAS A GODDESS OF VENGEANCE. SHE BESTOWED UPON AKKARA A GREAT POWER--THE SAME POWER THAT CHANNELS NOW THROUGH ME...
AS I CALL OUT TO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS...HERE, A MILE AWAY...
WHERE I BURIED THEM.
I CALL OUT, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE BLESSED MOON...
MY CALL IS ANSWERED.

CHAPTER 4

KLIK
HELLO CHRIS. SO GOOD OF YOU TO COME SAVE POOR RUTH.
I KNEW YOU WOULD. SOMETHING ABOUT THE PSYCHOLOGY OF GUILT.
"ME, MY PSYCHOLOGY IS SIMPLE--
"AN EYE FOR AN EYE.
"A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH."

WHAT YOU'RE HEARING, LISTENERS, IS THE SOUND OF TYRANNY, SUPPRESION, AND OBFUSCATION!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND END THE BROADCAST! DO IT NOW!
WE ARE LIVE AT THE COLONY, WHERE A GOVERNMENT KILL TEAM IS ATTEMPTING TO SILENCE CHRIS HALLORAN...
HAND OVER YOUR WEAPONS OR YOU WILL BE FIRED UPON!
IS THAT A FACT?
YOU RECOGNIZE THIS GUY?

HE'S ONE OF YOURS! NOW ARE YOU GONNA--
EYES SOUTH! WE'VE GOT MOVEMENT IN THE TREE LINE!
UNFORTUNATELY, CHRIS, YOU'RE NOT THE HERO OF THIS STORY...
YOU DON'T GET TO SAVE THE GIRL. IN THE END, YOU WON'T EVEN GET TO SAVE YOURSELF.
THIS IS MY STORY. AND RUTH PLAYS A BIG PART IN IT.
ONLY, HER NAME'S NOT RUTH...
IT'S DONNA.
KLIK

WHAT THE--
AGGGHHH!
SPREAD OUT!
PKOW
SHKT
GUNFIRE, LISTENERS! I JUST HEARD GUNFIRE! THE TIME HAS COME FOR ALL TRUE PATRIOTS TO STAND AND FIGHT!

DONNA...
MARSHA AND I, WE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D REMEMBER...YOU ONLY SAW ME BRIEFLY THAT NIGHT, AND THERE WAS SO MUCH GOING ON.
YOU PROBABLY GUESSED, I'M NOT A FEDERAL AGENT. I DID DO SOME COMMUNITY THEATER THOUGH, BEFORE I MET MY HUSBAND, JERRY. YOU KNOW, THE ONE YOU SHOT.
YOU KNEW ABOUT FRED, ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT...
I FOLLOWED YOU. HEARD YOUR ARGUMENT WITH FRED AND ASSUMED YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT HIM. THE GOVERNMENT SPOOKS, MARSHA ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THEM...
THEY WENT AFTER HER AND HER BROTHERS A WHILE BACK. IT'S WHY THEY CAME TO THE COLONY IN THE FIRST PLACE.
A JOURNALIST IS TAUGHT TO GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT--TO VERIFY. DESPITE THAT, I BELIEVED HER LIES.
NO, WORSE THAN THAT. I HOPED.
BECAUSE HOPE WAS THE ONLY THING I HAD LEFT TO HOLD ON TO.
DON'T...
GO AHEAD AND SHOOT...IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

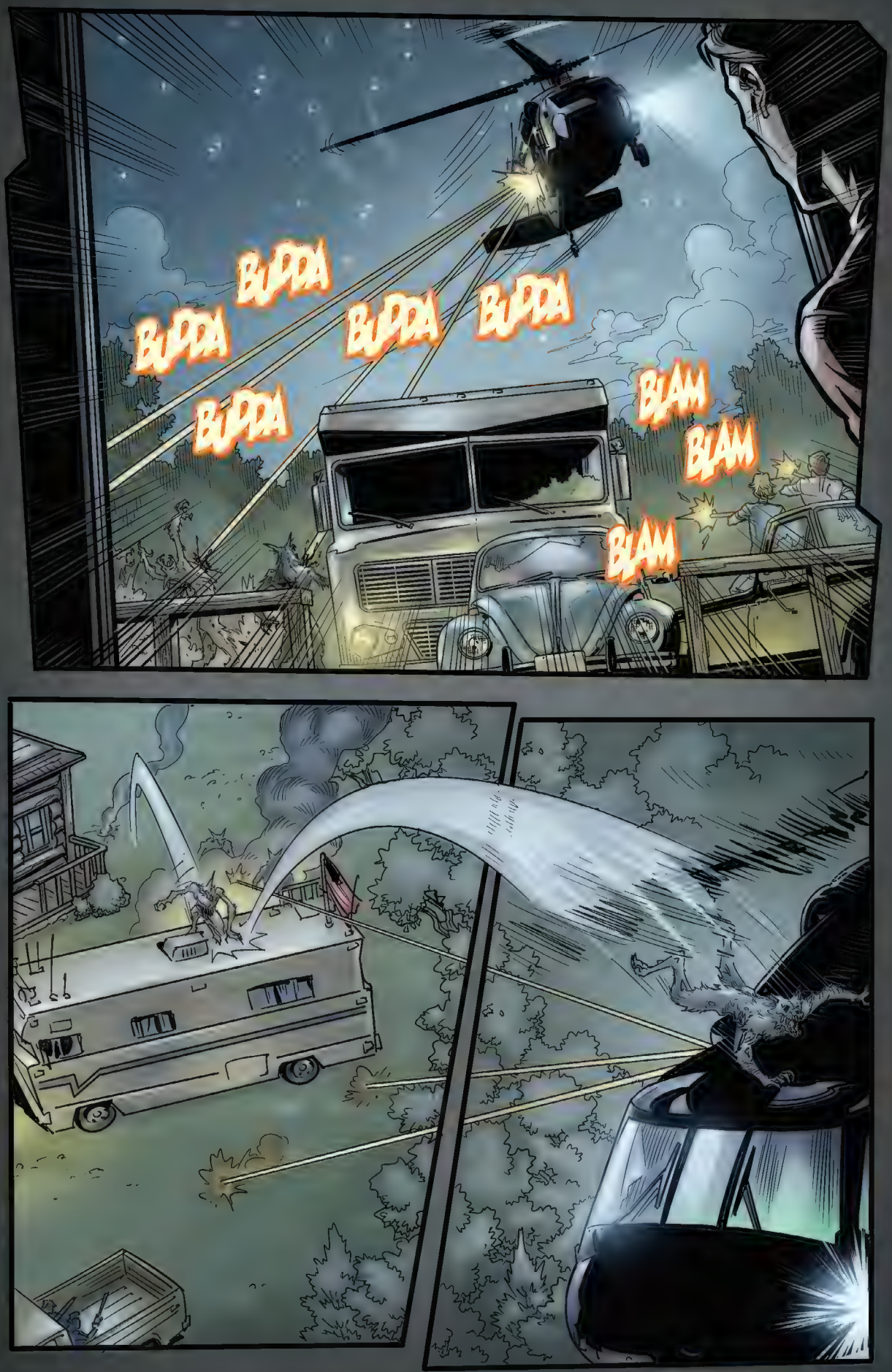
AIR ONE, ALPHA TWO. I'VE LOST VISUAL.
ALPHA TWO, BEHIND YOU!
PKOW
PKOW
PKOW
GK!

DID YOU SEE THAT? JESUS DID YOU SEE THAT? THE SILVER BULLETS DIDN'T KILL IT! CHRIST! WE'RE SCREWED!
KEEP IT TOGETHER, HUDSON!
GET US OUTTA HERE, JIMMY! GO! GO! GO!
G-GGAGGHH!
SNAP
POP
KRSH

SHOOT! SHOOT! SHOOT 'EM FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!
BLAM
BLAM BLAM
PKOW
PKOW
PKOW
EMMA! EMMA WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
GODDAMN WEREWOLVES IS WHAT'S GOIN' ON! AND I THINK OUR ENGINE TOOK A BULLET!
BOOM
BOOM
AHHH!

GAGH!
AIR ONE-- THIRTY METERS NORTH, AT THE TRAILHEAD. LIGHT 'EM UP!

GRRRRRRWWWLL!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
JESUS.


BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

JESUS ONE OF 'EM GOT IN THE--
GLKK!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
GNNG!
THK
THKT
THMP

BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
REVEALED! THE TRUTH IS REVEALED, FELLOW COUNTRYMEN! WEREWOLVES ARE REAL!
WEREWOLVES ARE--GAAAGHH!

DRIVE! DRIVE!
SHHNKT
SH-WA-
THWOOM

AIR ONE IS DOWN! REPEAT, AIR ONE IS DOWN!
GRRRR---
PKOW
PKOW
AGGGHHAHHH!

MY HEART SINGS. THE LEGENDS WERE TRUE.
MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS HUNT AGAIN...
EXISTING NOW IN THEIR TRUE FORM, THEIR HUMANITY GONE FOREVER.
THERE IS NO GREATER GIFT.

HEADSHOTS WILL KILL THEM. REPEAT, HEADSHOTS WILL KILL THEM.
ALPHA TEAM, DO YOU COPY?
WARGER, YOUNG, HUDSON, SPACEK...
ANYBODY?
GOOD GOD...
GOD? GOD FORGIVES...
I DON'T.

BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
KLIK KLIK

I TOLD YOU HOW THIS WOULD END.
YOU REMEMBER MY BROTHER T.C.? WHAT ABOUT EDDIE?
YOU CAN BE DAMN SURE THEY REMEMBER YOU.
ALL THIS TIME I'VE BEEN PURSUING THE TRUTH.
THE COLD, HARD TRUTH IS...I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS ALIVE.
GOODBYE CHRIS.

THE MONSTERS CLOSE IN...
ARRROOOOOOOO!
AND AS THE DARKNESS OVERTAKES ME, THE LAST THING I HEAR...
IS THE HOWLING.
TERRY, KAREN, I'VE FAILED YOU.

MY VENGEANCE IS COMPLETE.
TIME NOW THAT WE MAKE A HOME HERE IN THE WILD.
TIME NOW THAT WE INCREASE OUR NUMBERS. BUILD OUR STRENGTH. TIME THAT WE PREPARE.
FOR WHEN THE HOUR IS RIGHT, THE WORLD OF MEN WILL TREMBLE ONCE MORE...
BEFORE THE FURY OF THE WEREWOLF QUEEN.
THE END